

Sixth night. Mist started to drop at 10 pm but then lifted again. 4 *exulis* in all. *Furva*.

Seventh night. A little bit better in the evening as the wind had changed to N. W. and there was no mist but it was cold. I took 4 *exulis* and *furva*.

Eighth night. A very strong N. W. wind and it was bitterly cold. My hands were so numb I could hardly hold a net. Nothing.

Return home.

My diary reads "The most curious thing is the lateness of insects on sugar. We sugared at 11 pm and did the first round about 12.20 am and the earliest *exulis* taken was at 1.10 am but this was exceptional and it was rare to find one before 2.15 and one one occasion I got 2 at 2.45 when it was almost broad daylight. All the other insects were the same and *conflua (festiva)* was commonest on the posts from 2.30 to 3 am (when the sun was up)."

*Exulis* is one of those insects (*C. tridens* is another) which look so much better alive than set. They seem very big on sugar and stand out from everything else particularly because they have little iridescent specks of gold and violet along the main veins of the forewing and these shine in the torchlight. *Assimilis* is a smaller and much duller creature.

(To be continued)

ARENOSTOLA PHRAGMITIDIS HB. (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE) IN SOMERSET. — A flourishing colony of this moth was discovered in 1984 in a marshy locality on the Mendip Hills near Cheddar. This would seem to be an extension of range westward for this species, and the first confirmed record of its occurrence in Somerset, since Turner (*Lepidoptera of Somerset*, p.15) includes it only on the basis of one record of many years ago which he considered very doubtful. — C. S. H. BLATHWAYT, Amalfi, 27 South Road, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.

LAMPROPTERYX OTREGIATA METC.: METCALFE'S CARPET IN DERBYSHIRE. — On the night of the 5th September 1984 Archie Braddock of Long Eaton and I led a joint Derbyshire Entomological Society/Derbyshire Naturalists Trust field meeting to a wood just south of Ashbourne in Derbyshire. To our very great surprise we took a female *Lampropteryx otregiata* Metc. The site at which it was taken consists of an unmanaged piece of mixed woodland on heavy soil with a sluggish stream running through it, next to a grazing meadow which would appear to flood each winter.

The occurrence of this species in a small piece of woodland in the middle of farming country and some 150 miles from the nearest known site for it, which must either be Borth Bog in Wales or the New Forest in Hampshire, suggests that it is much more widely distributed in this country than the previous pattern of records indicated. — MARK STERLING, Department of Law, University Park, Nottingham.